FISH AND COVID-19
A Preliminary Assessment

COVID-19 - SEAFOOD MARKET TRENDS AND TECHNICAL UPDATES
INFOFISH – April 2020

Some Initial Caveats

- Difficulty of Forward-Looking Predictions
- Continuously New Information
- Variation between Countries
The Complexity of Fisheries

Origin of the product
- Capture
- Farming

Different type of producers
- Large-scale
- Small-scale
- Subsistence

Diversity of species
- In opposition to other animal proteins

Product conservation
- Highly perishable
- Transport
- Cold chains

Logistics

Social Inclusion

Food Security

Int’l Trade
- An important int’l commodity
The Effects of COVID-19

Production | Demand | Transportation | Processing | Consumer Habits

International Trade

Any Broken Link ...

Production | Demand | Transportation | Processing | International Trade

Any Broken Link ...
Fish is really an Important International Commodity
Importance of International Trade for Fisheries

Effects on Production
### Some Recent Production Data
#### Production Share - 2018

**Production**
- Aquaculture – 46%
- Capture – 54%

**Main Producers Aquaculture**
- China – 58%
- India – 9%
- Indonesia – 7%
- Viet Nam – 5%
- Bangladesh – 3%

**Main Producers Capture**
- China – 15%
- Indonesia – 7%
- Peru – 7%
- India – 6%
- Russia – 5%

### Effects on Production

**Capture Fishing**
- International demand
- HORECA demand
- Movement of people
- Human biosecurity
- Closure of ports
- Vessel supplies
- Coastal fisheries

**Aquaculture**
- Maintenance cost
- Seed and feed
- Movement of People
## Effects on Processing, Markets and Fisheries Governance

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<th>Processing</th>
<th>Markets</th>
<th>Fisheries Governance</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Reduction of inputs</td>
<td>• HORECA demand</td>
<td>• Science and management of stocks</td>
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<td>• Movement of people</td>
<td>• Long-Life Shelf Products</td>
<td>• IUU fishing</td>
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<td>• Human biosecurity</td>
<td>• Timely transportation</td>
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<td>• Distribution issues</td>
<td>• Border restrictions</td>
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### Overall Effects

- National Product (GDP)
- Nutrition
- Fish loss and waste
- Developing countries
- Food security
- New market opportunities
And the Future?

World Population Increase

2030 8.6 billion
2050 9.8 billion
2100 11.2 billion
Mitigation and Adaptation Examples

- Remote stock assessment
- Market diversion
- Market diversification
- Online training

Possible Immediate Effects

- Value x Volume
- Domestic and adjacent markets
- New shopping habits
- Digitalization
- Rearrangement of companies
To cope with COVID-19 and the Future

Keeping Trade Open
- FAO, WTO, and WHO Statement

Dissemination of information
- FAO Policy Brief on Fisheries

Dissemination of Information
COVID-19: Impact on global fish trade

The COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented in modern times, continues to cause major disruption in societies around the world and inflict severe damage on the global economy. Governments have introduced an array of measures intended to slow the spread of the virus, including social isolation directives, limitations on business operating hours and travel restrictions. The seafood sector, along with the majority of industries, is having to deal with a bleak demand outlook as well as an array of supply challenges. With the effective shutdown of the restaurant industry, household demand has evaporated, while retail sales have been marked by extreme volatility as periods of panic buying are followed by restricted sales.

Demand for packaged and frozen products has spiked as household look to stock up on non-perishable food at the expense of fresh seafood options. At the same time, online distributors are reporting increased interest in home-bound consumers exploring retail alternatives. Overall, however, demand has been sharply reduced and prices have fallen for many species, particularly those that are important for the restaurant industry. Meanwhile, suppliers and processors are struggling with business closures all along the supply chain as well as a number of other logistical difficulties. Hauliers must contend with closed or restricted road borders and health inspection delays, while the large-scale cancellations of flights has directly affected trade in some high-end fresh products which are transported by air.

Other consequences of the virus outbreak include the cancellation of key seafood trade events across the world and a delay in aquaculture harvests due to labour shortages. Seafood representatives in many countries are calling for financial aid from the government, but such measures may only provide limited relief in the face of widespread upheaval. Industry stakeholders are also calling for regulatory flexibility in terms of extending catch limits and raising licence limits, and emphasizing the need to rapidly understand and plan for long-term changes in the market landscape. Uncertainty still dominates the outlook, particularly with regard to the duration and severity of the pandemic, but a prolonged market downturn can be expected even after current restrictions are lifted or relaxed.
Sustainable Fish Trade
For Today and Tomorrow

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations